

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION  
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DOUANES

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SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

40.803 E

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12th Session

O.Eng.

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SC-3

Brussels, 4 December 1996.

CLASSIFICATION OF BLOOD ENZYMES  
(Item II.16 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

40.562 (HSC/18)

40.600, Annex IJ/22 (HSC/18 - Report)

I. BACKGROUND

- I. At its 18th Session (November 1996), the Harmonized System Committee examined a proposal by the Argentine Administration to amend the Explanatory Notes with regard to enzymes found in the blood. Specifically, it is proposed that Item (6) on page 537 of the Explanatory Note to heading 35.07, which covers AThrombin, prothrombinase, be transferred to Part (C) on page 465 of the Explanatory Note to heading 30.02. According to the Argentine Administration, Aother blood fractions@ are specifically mentioned in the text of heading 30.02 and in subheading 3002.10 and that these blood fractions include thrombin and prothrombinase, which are enzymes found in the blood. Argentina further points out that blood enzymes are excluded from Chapter 35 by Note 1 (b) to that Chapter.
  
- III. The Committee agreed with the Secretariat's suggestion that the question of whether thrombin and Aprothrombinase@ are Ablood fractions@ for the purposes of heading 30.02 be referred to the Scientific Sub-Committee, along with the proposed Explanatory Note amendments set out in Annex B to Doc. 40.562. In this connection, the Delegate of Canada suggested that a reference to blood enzymes should be added to the list of exclusions on page 538 of the Explanatory Note to heading 35.07; this proposed exclusion would read as follows :  
  
A(d) Cultures of micro-organisms, blood enzymes (e.g., thrombin) and other products of heading 30.02. @

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## II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

- V. For the Secretariat's comments concerning this question, the Sub-Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 7 to 18 of Doc. 40.562. In particular, the Secretariat would like to emphasize the following points :
- (a) the term Prothrombinase could not be found in the technical literature available to the Secretariat, but could possibly be identified with Coagulation factor X or with the complex formed between factor X and factor V (see paragraph 9 of Doc. 40.562); the Sub-Committee is asked to provide any information it can in this regard;
  - (b) since thrombin is not normally present in the blood until the clotting process (triggered by vascular injury) leads to its production from prothrombin, it is not clear whether it can be regarded as a blood fraction in its true sense (see paragraphs 10 and 15 to Doc. 40.562);
  - (c) the Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology includes Coagulation factors in its discussion of the fractionation of blood (see paragraph 14 of Doc. 40.562).

## III. CONCLUSIONS

- VII. The Sub-Committee is requested :
- (a) to give its views on the identity of Prothrombinase (see subparagraph 3 (a) above);
  - (b) to give its views on whether thrombin and Prothrombinase are blood fractions for the purposes of heading 30.02
  - (c) to examine the Explanatory Note amendments proposed (i) by the Secretariat (set out in Annex B to Doc. 40.562) and (ii) by Canada (reproduced in paragraph 2 above).
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